

Appl. No. 10/071,927
Amdt. Dated February 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 22, 2006

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Amended): In a shirt having a shirt body, an elongate neckband, and a collar, wherein the neckband is adapted to encircle the neck of a wearer and has upper and lower edges connected to the collar and to the shirt body, respectively, and a fastening means is on the ends of the neckband for securing the neckband and thus the collar circumferentially about the neck of a wearer, the improvement comprising:

a stretchable neckband made of a woven fabric material other than an elastomeric material, arranged so that the weave thereof is on a bias relative to the circumferential direction of the neckband, and which yields in at least a circumferential direction when a tensile force is applied thereto in a circumferential direction, and wherein the circumferential size of the neckband is only negligibly affected in the event of shrinkage of the material comprising the neckband.

Claims 2, 19 and 20 (Previously Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Amended): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
the woven fabric is formed of warp and weft threads that extend at an angle between about 10° and about 80° relative to the circumferential direction of the neckband.

Claim 4 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 3, wherein:
the threads forming the weft and warp of the material of the neckband extend at an angle of about 45° relative to the circumferential direction of the neckband.

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Claim 5 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 3, wherein:
the collar is also formed of warp and weft threads, and the threads forming the warp and weft of the material of both the collar and the neckband extend at an angle of about 45° relative to the longitudinal axis of the neckband.

Claim 6 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 3, wherein:
the neckband and collar are attached at adjacent edges by stitching that forms a seam, said stitching enabling said seam to stretch or elongate when a tensile force is applied thereto.

Claim 7 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 6, wherein:
the neckband and body of the shirt are attached at adjacent edges by stitching that forms a seam, said stitching enabling said seam to stretch or elongate when a tensile force is applied thereto.

Claim 8 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 7, wherein:
the neckband and collar are attached at adjacent edges by stitching that forms a seam, said stitching enabling said seam to stretch or elongate when a tensile force is applied thereto.

Claim 9 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 8, wherein:
the stitching comprises skip stitching, wherein the threads forming the stitch are interrupted at predetermined locations.

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Claim 10 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 8, wherein:
the stitching comprises zig-zag stitching.

Claim 11 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 10, wherein:
the zig-zag stitching is interrupted at predetermined locations.

Claim 12 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 8, wherein:
the neckband and body of the shirt are attached at adjacent edges by stitching that forms a
seam, said stitching enabling said seam to stretch or elongate when a tensile force is applied
thereto.

Claim 13 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 12, wherein:
the stitching comprises skip stitching, wherein the threads forming the stitch are
interrupted at predetermined locations.

Claim 14 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 12, wherein:
the stitching comprises zig-zag stitching.

Claim 15 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
the zig-zag stitching is interrupted at predetermined locations.

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Claim 16 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 4, wherein:
the neckband is formed of inner and outer panels of material that stretches in a circumferential direction and which shrinks only negligibly or not at all in at least a circumferential direction.

Claim 17 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 16, wherein:
a layer of interfacing material is interposed between the inner and outer panels of the neckband.

Claim 18 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 17, wherein:
the neckband and collar are stitched together along a seam; and
an edge of the interfacing material is stitched into the seam between the collar and neckband, said edge being cut in a zig-zag pattern forming peaks on the edge, and said stitching
5 extends across said peaks, whereby the edge of the interfacing is secured in said seam only at spaced locations.

Claim 21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Canceled)

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Claim 24 (New): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
the woven fabric is formed of warp threads and weft threads, with the warp threads running perpendicular to the circumferential direction of the collar, and the weft threads extending on a bias relative to the circumferential direction of the collar.

Claim 25 (New): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
the neckband is formed of inner and outer panels of material that stretches in a circumferential direction and which shrinks only negligibly or not at all in at least a circumferential direction.

Claim 26 (New): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
tabs are affixed to opposite ends of the neckband, and said fastening means is in said tabs.

Claim 27 (New): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 26, wherein:
said tabs are formed of a woven material having warp threads and weft threads, with the warp threads running perpendicular to the circumferential direction of the collar and the weft threads running parallel to the circumferential direction of the collar.

Claim 28 (New): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
the woven fabric is formed of warp threads and weft threads, and at least the weft threads extending on a bias relative to the circumferential direction of the collar and comprising a kinked thread that elongates under tension.

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Claim 29 (New): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the neckband is formed of inner and outer panels of material that stretches in a circumferential direction and which shrinks only negligibly or not at all in at least a circumferential direction;

5 said inner and outer panels each being formed of a woven fabric material comprising warp threads and weft threads, the warp threads and weft threads of at least the outer panel extending at an angle between about 10° and about 80° relative to the circumferential direction of the neckband; and

10 a plurality of holes formed through the inner panel, said holes elongating in a circumferential direction when a tensile force is applied circumferentially to the neckband, whereby the neckband is enabled to elongate when a circumferential force is applied to it.

Claim 30 (New): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 29, wherein:

at least the weft threads in the inner panel extend at a bias relative to the circumferential direction of the neckband.

Claim 31 (New): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the collar is made of a woven fabric material other than an elastomeric material, arranged so that the weave thereof is on a bias relative to the circumferential direction of the neckband, and which yields in at least a circumferential direction when a tensile force is applied thereto in a
5 circumferential direction.